GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Welfare of Coconut Tree Climbers
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a scheme for the welfare of coconut tree climbers and tappers in collaboration with the Coconut Development Board and if so, the objectives of the scheme;

(b) the number of climbers and tappers employed in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of climbers and tappers in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to meet the shortage of climbers and tappers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): Yes, Madam. Coconut Development Board has been implementing a welfare scheme "Kera Suraksha Insurance Scheme" for Coconut Tree Climbers and Neera Technicians since 17th August, 2011. The objective of the scheme is to cover the risk of Coconut Tree Climbers and Neera Technicians against accidents.

(b) to (d): No such data is available with Coconut Development Board. Presently Neera extraction is permitted only in Kerala.

Coconut Development Board has launched training programmes viz. 'Friends of Coconut Tree' and 'Neera Master Technician Training' and is providing assistance to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) for conducting 'Neera Technician Training'. Skill development programmes have been undertaken by Coconut Development Board towards popularizing mechanical climing device for climbing coconut palms. So far, 2,314 Neera Technicians and 52,153 climbers have been trained under FoCT programme.

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